

Alaska is the only gaming state in America, which has no single regulatory agency. Alaska has over 15 types of charitable gaming. If you've ever bought a raffle ticket, entered a fishing derby, played Bingo, or guessed when the ice at Nenana will go out, you have legally, gambled in Alaska. These gaming activities produce a \$350 million dollar gambling industry.

Enjoying a "Monte Carlo Night", a game of Keno or buying an Alaska Lottery ticket, are not allowed. Why not? The simple reason is that certain powerful legislators, over the years, have denied you the right to engage in these other harmless gaming activities. Even though, scientific research has shown that 97 % of persons, who do gamble, gamble responsibly.

Who's Backing This Initiative?

Over 52,000 Alaskans from across the State signed the Gaming Commission petition, placing the issue on this ballot. "Alaskans for Gaming Reform" was started by businesses involved in gaming. They were quickly joined by members of the Alaska Native Brotherhood (ANB) in Juneau who helped draft the Initiative language. The Native community is also critically aware of the internal problems of current gaming laws.

What Will The Initiative Do?

The Initiative would only create a Gaming Commission. That Commission would oversee all gaming activities and have the authority to authorize, administer, regulate, and enforce all gaming laws in Alaska. This Initiative, in itself, would NOT increase gambling in Alaska. The "Will of the People", not the Legislature, would decide what gaming activities would or would not be authorized. A Gaming Commission, appointed by the Governor and approved by the Legislature would ensure fairness and uniformity.

Who Is Managing Our Gambling Now?

Currently, the understaffed Charitable Gaming Division of the Department of Revenue administers and monitors gaming activities. The Department of Public Safety and local law enforcement agencies enforce the gaming laws and the Department of Law prosecutes gaming violations. This Initiative would consolidate all those functions into the Alaska Gaming Commission, thereby relieving the other agencies of valuable time to pursue their primary responsibilities.

How Will Non-Profits Be Affected?

The revenue that non-profits currently receive from Bingo, pulltabs, raffles and other charitable gaming activities will NOT be affected by this Initiative. Initial funding for the Commission staff and operations would be borne by the State but would be reimbursed from gaming revenue received and thereafter, be self sufficient. Any new forms of gaming allowed by the Commission could be taxed by the State, providing needed revenue for education, public safety, highways, and substance abuse rehabilitation facilities.

Conclusion!

A Gaming Commission will ensure that all gaming activities have responsible oversight. Gaming activities could be controlled and monitored by a central computer thus eliminating cumbersome reporting requirements and eliminating fraud and corruption. It could establish a new, stable, and consistent entertainment industry creating jobs throughout the State.

The majority of Alaskans can seldom agree on any one issue. This is one of them!

Anyone voting against an Alaska Gaming Commission is in favor of unregulated gaming!

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